

## Message Text

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01044 191226Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02  
SY-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 INRE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /083 W  
-----191230Z 095506 /10/13

O 0190917Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 778  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE  
DIA WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 1044

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSIONS OF TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS EG  
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PRICE INCREASES CONTINUE

REF: CAIRO 1019

1. LATE AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING JANUARY 18, ELEMENTS OF LARGE  
CROWDS IN TAHRIR SQUARE/PA AREA TURNED VIOLENT. STONES THROWN,  
CARS AND BUSES ATTACKED. POLICE, WHO HAD NOT UNTIL THEN INTERFERED,  
CHARGED CROWDS, USING BATONS AND TEAR GAS. ENTIRE TAHRIR  
AREA HAD BEEN SEALED OFF AT 1700. BY 2200, TAHRIR CROWDS HAD  
DISPERSED. BONFIRES WERE SET AT ABOUT 50 METER INTERVALS ALONG  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01044 191226Z

RAMSES STREET TO RIVER; AT 0500 JAN 19, SOME BILLBOARDS ON RAMSES  
STILL BURNING.

2. AREA NEAR PRESIDENT'S HOME IN GIZA (SADAT IS STILL IN ASWAN)  
WAS ABSOLUTELY NORMAL UNTIL ABOUT 1730 JAN 18, WHEN CROWDS BEGAN TO  
COLLECT NEAR SHERATON BRIDGE. BY 1900, STONE THROWING BEGAN AND  
POLICE CHARGED RIOTERS OUTSIDE SHERATON HOTEL. REGULAR  
POLICE CORDON PROTECTED SHERATON ALL NIGHT LONG,  
THOUGH CROWDS COMPLETELY DISPERSED BY 2030. FOUR TANKS NOW  
GUARD PRESIDENT'S HOUSE ON RIVER SIDE IN UNOBTRUSIVE FASHION.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT VIOLENT ELEMENTS WHICH LAST EVENING THREW ROCKS IN TAHRIR SQUARE AND ROAMED IN SMALL GANGS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL CAIRO WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY COMPOSED OF YOUNG BOYS OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE. SIGNIFICANTLY, OLDER PEOPLE DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO MOST OF VIOLENCE. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT OLDER WORKERS CONTRIBUTED TO VIOLENCE WHICH ERUPTED IN WORKING CLASS SUBURBS, ESPECIALLY SHUBRA.

4. SITUATION AT 1030 LOCAL (0830Z) JANUARY 19: WHILE TAHRIR SQUARE STILL CLEAR, THOUSANDS HAVE BEGUN DEMONSTRATE TO NORTH AND EAST, ESPECIALLY NEAR CENTRAL BANK. ROCK THROWING AND PROVOCATION OF POLICE ARE PRIMARILY BY MOST YOUTHFUL OF RIOTERS. POLICE CHARGING CROWDS USING TEAR GAS. MOST SHOPS ARE CLOSED AND PRIVATE CARS ARE BEING KEPT OFF STREETS. POLICE HAVE SEALED OFF MOST OF DOWNTOWN CAIRO. ALL UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED. MOST BUSES AND TAXIS ARE OFF STREETS. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN, ARMY UNITS WITH RIFLES ARE SPOTTED THROUGHOUT METROPOLITAN CAIRO AND WE HAVE HEARD LOUD REPORTS WHICH MIGHT BE RIFLE SHOTS. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, SO FAR SEEN CRACK SECURITY RESERVE FORCES.

5. DIRECTOR OF CAIRO SECURITY HAS URGED AMERICANS KEEP OFF STREETS AND CONSULATE WILL INFORM ENQUIRERS THAT THEY SHOULD AVOID EXPOSURE IN PUBLIC PLACES. SCHEDULED DEDICATION OF NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 01044 191226Z

NAMRU MEDICAL RESEARCH WARD AT 100 JAN 19 HAS BEEN POSTPONED ON ADVICE OF EGYPTIAN SECURITY.

6. OUTSIDE CAIRO: CTNSUL SURBER REPORTS 1000 LOCAL JAN 19 THAT ALL QUIET IN PORT SAID JAN 18 AND THIS A.M. NO EYEWITNESS REPORTS FROM HELWAN, BUT BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC APPEARS GREATLY CURTAILED SINCE AFTERNOON JANUARY 18. HEAVY RAINS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CALM ALEXANDRIA JAN 19 A.M.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** CAIRO 1019  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PRICE INCREASES CONTINUE  
**TAGS:** PINS, EG  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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